Application No.: 10/759,746 17355CIP4 (BOT)

Fernandez-Salas, E., et al., Methods of Identifying Compounds that Alter Toxin Persistence and/or Protease Activity

## PATENT IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Application No.: 10/759,746

Applicant: Fernandez-Salas, E. et al.

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Patent Title: Methods of Identifying Compounds that Alter Toxin Persistence and/or

Protease Activity

## APPLICANTS' REPLY

February 25, 2008

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir

This 51 page communication is responsive to a Non-Compliant Appeal Brief mailed January 25, 2008. The Office Action has been carefully considered and the Applicants are filing a request for reexamination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(d). The Applicants have the following comments:

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of the Applicants' Reply and are reflected in the listing of claims.

Remarks begin on page 10 of the Applicants' Reply.

Appendix A is attached following page 51 of the Applicants' Reply.